Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-95: CANCELED

96.   (new)   An Internet-enabled rental vehicle reservation management system, the system comprising:

an Internet web portal in communication with the Internet, wherein the Internet web portal is configured for access by an authorized purchaser computer via the Internet to provide a user of the authorized purchaser computer with an ability to book a rental vehicle reservation with any of a plurality of competitive rental vehicle service providers, wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to provide a plurality of graphical user interface (GUI) menus to the authorized purchaser computer for display thereon, wherein at least one of the GUI menus is configured to accept a selection by the user as to which one of the plurality of competitive rental vehicle service providers that a rental vehicle reservation is to be booked with, and wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to transmit the rental vehicle reservation to the selected one of the competitive rental vehicle service providers;

a computer network operated by one of the competitive rental vehicle service providers, the computer network being in communication with the Internet web portal, the computer network comprising a mainframe that is configured to execute a rental vehicle software program;

wherein at least one of the GUI menus is configured to interface a user of the authorized purchaser computer with the rental vehicle software program; and

wherein the rental vehicle software program is configured to (1) automatically book, in response to input from the user, a rental vehicle reservation with the competitive rental vehicle service provider that operates the computer network without human intervention on the part of personnel of the competitive rental vehicle service provider that operates the computer network and (2) manage the booked rental vehicle reservation in response to input from the user.

97.   (new)   The system of claim 96 wherein the mainframe comprises a first mainframe, and wherein the computer network further comprises:

a second mainframe in communication with the first mainframe;

a database in which rental vehicle reservation data is stored, wherein the database is in communication with the second mainframe; and

a plurality of branch office computers of the competitive rental vehicle service provider that operates the computer network, wherein the plurality of branch office computers are in communication with the second mainframe; and

wherein the second mainframe is configured to execute a software program for access by the branch office computers to fulfill rental vehicle reservations that are stored within the database and that were booked and managed by the rental vehicle software program in response to input from the user.

98.   (new)   The system of claim 97 wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to transmit a rental vehicle reservation to a different one of the selected competitive rental vehicle service providers via email over the Internet.

99.   (new)   The system of claim 97 wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to transmit a rental vehicle reservation to a different one of the selected competitive rental vehicle service providers via phone.

100.   (new)   The system of claim 97 wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to transmit a rental vehicle reservation to a different one of the selected competitive rental vehicle service providers via facsimile.

101.   (new)   The system of claim 97 further comprising a second one of the computer networks, wherein the second one of the computer networks is operated by a different one of the competitive rental vehicle service providers.

102. (new) The system of claim 97 wherein the Internet web portal is configured for access by a plurality of authorized purchaser computers, and wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to customize the GUI menus on a per authorized purchaser computer user basis.

103. (new) The system of claim 97 wherein the Internet web portal is configured to provide a user of the authorized purchaser computer with a single set of GUI menus for booking a rental vehicle reservation with all of the competitive rental vehicle service providers.

104. (new) The system of claim 103 wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to accommodate a plurality of varying data requirements for rental vehicle reservations with the competitive rental vehicle service providers.

105. (new) The system of claim 97 wherein the rental vehicle software program is further configured to support a plurality of management functions by the user for a rental vehicle reservation, the management functions comprising a rental vehicle reservation extension by the user, an authorization by the user of a request for a rental vehicle reservation extension requested by someone other than the user, an authorization by the user for a rental vehicle reservation booked by someone other than the user, and a change in rental vehicle reservation authorization by the user.

106. (new) The system of claim 105 wherein the Internet web portal is configured for access by a plurality of authorized purchaser computers belonging to a common business organization, and wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to provide a GUI menu for display on the authorized purchaser computers that presents each user with an action item list that identifies a plurality of management function actions for rental vehicle reservations that have been assigned to the user, and wherein the Internet web portal is further configured to create a plurality of workgroups of users, wherein each workgroup shares a workload of management function actions.

107. (new) The system of claim 97 wherein the Internet web portal is configured for access by a plurality of authorized purchaser computers, and wherein the Internet web portal is further

configured to assign each user of the authorized purchaser computers with an authorization limit that limits an extent of functionality available to each user when managing a rental vehicle reservation through the rental vehicle software program.

108. (new) The system of claim 107 wherein the authorization limit includes a financial commitment dollar limit that a user can make on rental vehicle reservations over a specified time period.

109. (new) The system of claim 97 further comprising a layer of computer architecture that interconnects the Internet web portal with the Internet, the computer architecture layer comprising a plurality of networked servers and a firewall, wherein the firewall connects the Internet web portal with the plurality of networked servers, and wherein the plurality of networked servers are configured to provide order to data communications to and from the Internet.

110. (new) The system of claim 109 wherein the firewall comprises a first firewall, and wherein the first architecture layer comprises a second firewall that connects the plurality of networked servers to the Internet.

111. (new) The system of claim 110 wherein the Internet web portal comprises a plurality of networked web servers within a second computer architecture layer.

112. (new) The system of claim 96 further comprising a second one of the computer networks, wherein the second one of the computer networks is operated by a different one of the competitive rental vehicle service providers.

113. (new) A method for creating and managing a plurality of rental vehicle reservations, the method comprising:

　　　providing an Internet web portal in communication with an authorized purchaser computer via the Internet;

providing a user of the authorized purchaser computer with an option through the Internet web portal to select a rental vehicle service provider with which to book a rental vehicle reservation from among a plurality of competitive rental vehicle service providers, wherein at least one of the competitive rental vehicle service providers maintains a computer network in communication with the Internet web portal, wherein the computer network comprises a rental vehicle software program;

in response to a selection by the user of a competitive rental vehicle service provider that maintains the computer network, (1) interfacing the user with the rental vehicle software program via a plurality of graphical user interface (GUI) menus that are displayed on the authorized purchaser computer, (2) receiving input at the Internet web portal from the user through the GUI menus, (3) in response to the received input, providing a series of commands to the rental vehicle software program, and (4) executing the rental vehicle software program in response to the series of commands to thereby (a) automatically book a rental vehicle reservation with the competitive rental vehicle service provider that maintains the computer network without human intervention on the part of personnel of the competitive rental vehicle service provider that maintains the computer network and (b) manage the booked rental vehicle reservation; and

in response to a selection by the user of a different competitive rental vehicle service provider, transmitting a rental vehicle reservation from the user to the selected different competitive rental vehicle service provider through the Internet web portal.

114. (new) The method of claim 113 wherein the rental vehicle reservation comprises a replacement rental vehicle reservation.

115. (new) The method of claim 114 wherein the authorized purchaser comprises business organization that books and manages replacement rental vehicle reservations on behalf of a plurality of third party renters.

116. (new) The method of claim 115 wherein the business organization comprises an insurance company.

117. (new) The method of claim 116 wherein the user comprises an insurance adjuster.

118. (new) The method of claim 116 wherein the computer network further comprises a first mainframe that executes the rental vehicle reservation software program, a second mainframe in communication with the first mainframe, and a plurality of branch office computers within a plurality of branch offices of the competitive rental vehicle service provider that maintains the computer network, wherein the plurality of branch office computers are in communication with the second mainframe; the method further comprising:

executing software resident on the second mainframe to (1) retrieve a rental vehicle reservation booked and managed through the rental vehicle software program and (2) process the retrieved rental vehicle reservation for fulfillment at one of the branch offices when the third party picks up a rental vehicle in accordance with the rental vehicle reservation.

119. (new) The method of claim 118 wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting a rental vehicle reservation from the user to the selected different competitive rental vehicle service provider through the Internet web portal via email over the Internet.

120. (new) The method of claim 118 wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting a rental vehicle reservation from the user to the selected different competitive rental vehicle service provider through the Internet web portal via phone.

121. (new) The method of claim 118 wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting a rental vehicle reservation from the user to the selected different competitive rental vehicle service provider through the Internet web portal via facsimile.

122. (new) The method of claim 118 wherein computer network comprises a first computer network, and wherein the selected different competitive rental vehicle service provider also maintains its own computer network with the same functionality as the first computer network such that the user can also book and manage a rental vehicle reservation with the selected different competitive rental vehicle service provider through a rental vehicle software program maintained by the selected different competitive rental vehicle service provider.

123. (new)   The method of claim 118 wherein the Internet web portal is in communication with a plurality of different authorized purchaser computers, wherein the option providing step comprises providing the option to the users of the different authorized purchaser computers, and wherein the method further comprises:

customizing the GUI menus on a per user basis.

124. (new)   The method of claim 123 wherein the users comprise users from different insurance companies.

125. (new)   The method of claim 118 further comprising:

providing the user with a single set of GUI menus through the Internet web portal for booking a rental vehicle reservation with all of the competitive rental vehicle service providers.

126. (new)   The method of claim 125 further comprising:

accommodating through the Internet web portal a plurality of varying data requirements for rental vehicle reservations with the competitive rental vehicle service providers.

127. (new)   The method of claim 118 wherein the rental vehicle software program executing step comprises performing a plurality of user-specified management functions for a plurality of rental vehicle reservations, the user-specified management functions comprising a rental vehicle reservation extension by the user, an authorization by the user of a request for a rental vehicle reservation extension requested by someone other than the user, an authorization by the user for a rental vehicle reservation booked by someone other than the user, and a change in rental vehicle reservation authorization by the user.

128. (new)   The method of claim 127 wherein the Internet web portal is configured for access by a plurality of authorized purchaser computers belonging to a common business organization, the method further comprising:

creating and administering a plurality of workgroups, wherein each workgroup comprises a plurality of users, and wherein each workgroup shares a workload of management functions for rental vehicle reservations among its users; and

providing a GUI menu for display on the authorized purchaser computers through the Internet web portal that presents each user with an action item list that identifies a plurality of management function actions for rental vehicle reservations that have been assigned to the user's workgroup.

129. (new) The method of claim 118 wherein the Internet web portal is configured for access by a plurality of authorized purchaser computers, the method further comprising:

assigning each user of the authorized purchaser computers with an authorization limit that limits an extent of functionality available to each user when managing a rental vehicle reservation through the rental vehicle software program.

130. (new) The method of claim 129 wherein the authorization limit assigning step comprises imposing a financial commitment dollar limit that a user can make on rental vehicle reservations over a specified time period.

131. (new) The method of claim 118 wherein the Internet web portal is maintained by the same competitive rental vehicle service provider that maintains the computer network.

132. (new) The method of claim 131 further comprising:

positioning the Internet web portal behind a firewall maintained by the same competitive rental vehicle service provider that maintains the computer network, wherein the Internet web portal is in communication with the Internet via the firewall.

133. (new) The method of claim 118 further comprising:

providing a layer of computer architecture that interconnects the Internet web portal with the Internet, the computer architecture layer comprising a plurality of networked servers and a firewall, wherein the firewall connects the Internet web portal with the plurality of

networked servers, and wherein the plurality of networked servers are configured to provide order to data communications to and from the Internet.

134. (new) The method of claim 133 wherein the computer architecture layer and the Internet web portal are maintained by the same competitive rental vehicle service provider that maintains the computer network.

135. (new) The method of claim 134 wherein computer architecture layer providing step further comprises providing another firewall, the another firewall connecting the plurality of networked servers to the Internet.

136. (new) The method of claim 134 wherein the Internet web portal providing step comprises a configuring a plurality of networked web servers to serve as the Internet web portal.